

## Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 ACDA-10 AGRE-00 AID-05 CEA-01 CEQ-01  
CG-00 CIAE-00 CIEP-02 COME-00 DLOS-06 DODE-00 DOTE-00  
EB-08 EPA-04 ERDA-07 FEAE-00 FMC-02 TRSE-00 H-02  
INR-07 INT-05 IO-13 JUSE-00 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05  
NSF-02 OES-06 OMB-01 PA-02 PM-04 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15  
USIA-15 SAL-01 /141 W

-----241308Z 021018 /53

R 241040Z JAN 77

FM AMEMBASSY COLOMBO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6592

UNCLAS COLOMBO 0293

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PLOS,CE

SUBJECT: SRI LANKA PROCLAMATION OF MARITIME ZONES

REF (A) STATE 14377, (B) 76 COLOMBO A-95

1. ON JANUARY 15, PRESIDENT GOPALLAWA PROCLAIMED SRI LANKA MARITIME ZONES. PROCLAMATION WAS IN ACCORDANCE WITH SRI LANKA'S "MARITIME ZONES LAW" TEXT OF WHICH REPORTED IN REF B.

2. PROCLAMATION DECLARED A 12-NAUTICAL MILE TERRITORIAL SEA, A 24-NAUTICAL MILE CONTIGUOUS ZONE, AND A 200-NAUTICAL MILE EXCLUSIVE ECONOMIC ZONE. SRI LANKA WILL EXERCISE SOVEREIGNTY IN TERRITORIAL SEA SUBJECT TO RIGHT OF INNOCENT PASSAGE. WAR SHIPS OR MILITARY AIRCRAFT REQUIRE GSL CONSENT BEFORE ENTERING TERRITORIAL WATERS OR AIR SPACE, RESPECTIVELY. IN CONTIGUOUS ZONES, GSL WILL TAKE APPROPRIATE ACTION TO PREVENT CONTRAVENTION OF LAWS RELATING TO IMMIGRATION, HEALTH, CUSTOMS, AND SECURITY. NO FOREIGN SHIP CAN ENGAGE IN FISHING OR ANY ACTIVITY CONNECTED WITH EXPLORATION OR EXPLOITATION OF RESOURCES WITHIN EXCLUSIVE ECONOMIC  
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ZONE WITHOUT GSL APPROVAL.

3. MARTIME LAW ALSO DEFINES AGREEMENT REACHED BETWEEN SRI LANKA AND INDIA REGARDING EXTENT AND LEGAL STATUS OF HISTOIC WATERS BETWEEN TWO COUNTRIES IN THE PALK STRAIT, PALK BAY, AND GULF OF MANNAR.

4. MINISTRY OF DEFENSE AND FOREIGN AFFAIRS (MDFA) IS ACCLAIMING LAW AS EPOCH MAKING STEP IN LIFE OF THE COUNTRY WHICH WILL INCREASE THE MARITIME AREA OF EXPLOITATION RESERVED FOR SRI LANKA. MDFA LEGAL ADVISOR IN AN ARTICLE IN JANUARY 16 SUNDAY OBSERVER NOTES THAT SRI LANKA'S ACTION IS NOT UNILATERAL, BUT THE RESULT OF EXTENSIVE BILATERAL AND MULTILATERAL NEGOTIATIONS AND TAKES INTO CONSIDERATION THE INTERESTS OF OTHER COUNTRIES DIRECTLY CONCERNED. SRI LANKA'S ACTION, MOREOVER, LEGAL ADVISER WRITES, CONFORMS TO PRINCIPAL OF AN EXCLUSIVE ECONOMIC ZONE OF THE LAW OF THE SEA CONFERENCE, A PRINCIPLE THAT HAS BEEN GIVEN UNQUALIFIED SUPPORT BY AN OVERWHELMING MAJORITY OF NATIONS.

5. EMBASSY WILL POUCH TEXT OF PRESIDENT'S PROCLAMATION WHEN RECEIVED.  
REED

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NNN

## Message Attributes

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**Capture Date:** 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** TERRITORIAL SEA LIMIT, LAW  
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**Executive Order:** N/A  
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**Reference:** 77 STATE 14377, 76 COLOMBO A-95  
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**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** SRI LANKA PROCLAMATION OF MARITIME ZONES  
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**To:** STATE  
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**Review Markings:**  
Margaret P. Grafeld  
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